

Proposing to Add a Section 705; on rollcall No. 331—"yes"—America COMPETES Act—Ninth Portion of the Divided Question, Proposing to Add a Section 706; on rollcall No. 332—"no"—America COMPETES Act—Final Passage; on rollcall No. 333—"yes"—Skelton of Missouri En Bloc Amendments No. 9; on rollcall No. 334—"no"—To Table the Appeal of the Ruling of the Chair—Republican Motion to Recommit #1, To eliminate the 1.4 percent non-military federal employee pay raise, saving taxpayers \$30 billion over the next ten years; on rollcall No. 335—"yes"—Republican Motion to Recommit #2, to H.R. 5136, National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year; on rollcall No. 336—"no"—H.R. 5136, National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011—Final Passage.

AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN ENGROSSMENT OF H.R. 5136, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Clerk be authorized to make technical corrections in the engrossment of H.R. 5136, to include corrections in spelling, punctuation, section numbering and cross-referencing, and the insertion of appropriate headings.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

NATIONAL ASTHMA AND ALLERGY AWARENESS MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 407, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CASTOR) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 407, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 5116.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PERRIELLO). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Texas?

There was no objection.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curts, one of its clerks, announced that

the Senate has passed without amendment a bill and agreed to without amendment a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H.R. 5330. An act to amend the Antritrust Criminal Penalty Enhancement and Reform Act of 2004 to extend the operation of such Act, and for other purposes.

H. Con. Res. 282. CONCURRENT RESOLUTION: providing for a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives and a condition recess or adjournment of the Senate.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed with amendments in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 4899. AN ACT: making emergency supplemental appropriations for disaster relief and summer jobs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendment to the bill (H.R. 4899) "An Act making emergency supplemental appropriations for disaster relief and summer jobs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes," requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. INOUE, Mr. BYRD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. MIKULSKI, Mr. KOHL, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. DORGAN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. JOHNSON, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. REED, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. NELSON (NE), Mr. PRYOR, Mr. TESTER, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. BOND, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. GREGG, Mr. BENNETT, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. VOINOVICH, and Ms. MURKOWSKI to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

COMMENDING DR. NATHAN FORD

(Mr. ROE of Tennessee asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Dr. Nathan Ford, the 2010 recipient of the prestigious Celebrate Our Successes award, for his life achievements as an alumni of the Cocke County School System in Newport, Tennessee. Dr. Ford has selflessly devoted his life to providing health care through his practice of optometry, education for children of all ages, and public service to Tennessee.

Dr. Ford began serving at age 27, when he was elected to the Cocke County Board of Education. He has since served as the Economic Development Commission chair, director of the chamber of commerce, chairman of the Cocke County Baptist Hospital Board, and has served four terms as a Tennessee State representative. I commend him for meeting all these roles with dignity and wisdom.

Dr. Ford's love of serving others, medicine, and community involvement continues to this day. It is a great example to those not only in east Tennessee, but to our country. I encourage

my colleagues to join with me in commending Dr. Nathan Ford for his outstanding life contributions and his earning this honorable award.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

SUPPORTING REPEAL OF DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the amendment from yesterday, and I am proud to have joined my colleagues in repealing the discriminatory Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy.

As a member of the House Appropriations Committee and the Select Intelligence Oversight Panel, I did so not only because I believe this is an important step toward full LGBT equality, but also because I believe repealing the policy will make our military stronger and our Nation more secure.

Mr. Speaker, since the Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy was created in 1993, more than 13,000 able-bodied patriotic Americans have been jettisoned from the military simply because of who they are. These are brave men and women who are willing to make the ultimate sacrifice for our country. We owe these Americans a debt of gratitude, not disrespect and dishonor.

This was not a difficult vote for me. The preamble to our Constitution states: "We, the people, in order to form a more perfect Union, to provide for the common defense, and secure the blessings of liberty, do ordain and establish this Constitution." Our President often says we are in the constant process of making our Nation a more perfect Union.

In my view, this amendment is vital if we are to uphold the Constitution's promise of equal protection to gays and lesbians in my home State of Florida and all across America. My friends in the LGBT community know all too well that serving their Nation openly and honestly in the Armed Forces is but one of many rights they are currently denied. That's wrong, and with this vote we made it right.

Yet as important as this amendment is towards bestowing full civil rights for gays and lesbians, it is equally important because it will improve our military readiness and make our Nation more secure. Too often we are told in this Chamber that we must choose between our security and our liberty. And I generally reject that false choice. But in this case, with this vote, we both expand civil liberties and make our Nation more secure.

Mr. Speaker, since the attacks of September 11, when our Nation has

been waging wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, at the very time that we have been under serious and sustained threats from global terror networks, the United States military has discharged more than 800 soldiers in mission-critical positions, including Arabic and Farsi linguists. Why? Are they bad translators or poor soldiers, marines, or airmen? No, they were discharged for only one reason, because they were gay or lesbian.

They were discharged despite the fact they made valuable contributions to our intelligence community. They were discharged despite the fact we have an alarming shortage of translators. So this policy is not only an affront to civil liberties; but at a time when we are fighting two wars, it is idiotic.

But it is important to repeal this policy for a third reason. It is dishonorable. Gays and lesbians are serving in our Nation's Armed Forces with great distinction. They always have. The only question is whether our government must continue to ask them to lie about their sexual orientation in order to do so. The Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy is the only law in the country that requires people to be dishonest about their personal lives or face the possibility of being fired.

Our own Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Michael Mullen, recently said, "No matter how I look at this issue, I cannot escape being troubled by the fact that we have in place a policy which forces young men and women to lie about who they are in order to defend their fellow citizens. For me personally, it comes down to integrity—theirs as individuals and ours as an institution."

Mr. Speaker, I could not agree more. No one should have to lie to perform any job, but especially not those sworn to protect our Nation. I think it is only fitting that this amendment was offered by the first Iraq war veteran to serve in Congress, Representative PATRICK MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Congressman MURPHY served in Bosnia and in the famed 82nd Airborne in Iraq. So when he brought his amendment before this House, he did so with deep love for his country and with our military's best interests at heart.

The policy Congressman MURPHY crafted, in cooperation with our Commander in Chief and Pentagon leaders, is a responsible one. It merely unties the hands of leaders at the Pentagon by removing the outdated Don't Ask, Don't Tell statute, while ensuring that the transition to a new personnel policy takes place without disruption to our fighting force.

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In the spirit of equality and a more perfect Union, with the confidence we are making our Nation more secure, and with pride that we are ending a policy of dishonor, we uphold our American values by repealing Don't Ask, Don't Tell.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE of Texas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HALT PAY RAISES FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mrs. BACHMANN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, today this Congress had a chance to save our American taxpayers \$2 billion next year by halting another scheduled pay raise for Federal employees, but this Chamber refused once again to listen to the cries of the American people.

Today, we know that our budget deficits are clearly unsustainable. They are falling off the cliff, dropping off the cliff of financial sanity, and we simply can't afford anymore to continue the out-of-control spending policies that have marked both Republican and Democrat leadership here in Washington, DC.

I thank my colleague, Representative ERIC CANTOR, for spearheading the new program called YouCut, where we reach out to the American people and ask them to tell us what they would like us to cut here in Washington from the Federal budget.

Clearly, the government doesn't create the wealth or the jobs in this country. It's the private sector that does that. And when the government taxes and spends the way it has been the last several years, then innovators and entrepreneurs are stripped of the flexibility that they need to create jobs by excessive taxes and burdensome regulations.

We're now at the point, Mr. Speaker, where we have over \$13 trillion in debt. Who ran the debt up? This is under Democrat leadership, but this is under Republican leadership. Both parties have been at fault with increasing the debt that the next generation has to pay. It isn't a Republican or Democrat issue. And the American people are outraged by all of the out-of-control spending that's been going on in this city by both political parties.

Under President Bush, the Federal employees received across-the-board raises of 3 percent in January of 2008 and 3.9 percent in January of 2009. The same thing happened under President Obama. He recommended increases in pay for Federal employees in each of the years he's been in office. In fact, since the year 2000, Federal workers have received annual pay raises of 3.6 percent a year. But we could have, today, eliminated the latest Federal employee pay raise and also put the kibosh on the pay raises for Members of Congress, but that was voted down, unfortunately, primarily by the Democrat majority of this body.

According to the newspaper USA Today this week, they reported the

typical Federal worker is paid 20 percent more than a private-sector worker in the same occupation. In fact, Mr. Speaker, in 83 percent of all job categories between the government worker and the private worker, 83 percent of the time Federal employees are paid more, in fact, substantially more, than their private counterparts. This doesn't include the value of benefits like health care and retirement. When you take them into account, this graph shows Federal employees are making double what people in the private sector are making.

In fact, the numbers, Mr. Speaker, show the average wage and benefit package for a government employee today in America is almost \$120,000. For their counterpart in the private sector, their average wage and benefit package is just under \$60,000 a year. Double is what people who are government workers are making over those in the private sector.

This Chamber today couldn't even bring themselves to freeze the pay increases of these government workers that are making double what people in the private sector are making today.

Here's one example. Federal employees making over \$100,000. When the recession started 18 months ago, 14 percent of Federal employees made over \$100,000. The recession has been very kind to government workers. Now it's 19 percent of government workers make over \$100,000 a year.

Here's an even more specific example. In the Department of Transportation, only one government worker made over \$170,000 a year. Eighteen months of the recession and we have 1,690 employees now making over \$170,000 a year in the Department of Transportation. That's even before you consider overtime and bonuses.

The recession has been very kind to the government worker, not so much for those in the private sector.

My proposal today would have prevented Members of Congress from getting pay increases. Unfortunately, the majority party did not want to prevent their own pay increases. We would have kept in place the pay increases for our military. Why? Because they deserve it. At 1.4 percent increase during a time of war, we should not ask our military to make that sacrifice.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address the Chair regarding the votes that I missed on the following dates:

May 12, due to the passing of my mother, Ivalita Jackson, I missed the following votes:

Rollcall vote No. 259, I would have voted "aye";

Rollcall vote No. 260, I would have voted "aye";

Rollcall vote No. 261, I would have voted "aye";

Rollcall vote No. 262, I would have voted "aye";